

Board Delays Ruling in Fireman DeArmitt Hearing

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IN THE HERALD TODAY

Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

Ann Landers	9	Obituaries	2
Armed Forces	8	Society	9-10
Comics	7	Sports	6
Crossword	4	Star Gazer	4
Editorials	4	Want Ads	12-15

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COURT UPSETS ANNEXATION BID

A Penny for your Thoughts

"American women have often been said to be pampered and spoiled. What is your opinion of this?"

Answering were:

W. A. Holman, 21902½ So. Western Ave., anchine operator:
"I think women make themselves what they are by asking to be pitied and spoiled. The American woman is definitely more spoiled than an European or Oriental woman. They have too much time to themselves so get themselves into trouble and misunderstandings."

Mrs. Francis Stoeckle, 2612 W. 175th St., Welcome Wag-on Hostess:
"Yes, I think we are a little spoiled, but our men seem to be getting along all right and not suffering from it for they are still spoiling us. I think we are spoiled in our homes but we get out and participate in community affairs more."

A. B. Baca, 312 W. 16th St., San Pedro, shoe salesman:
"I think they are given the place they deserve; women should be treated with kindness and consideration and like a woman. Of course it depends in the woman and whether she takes advantage of the man's kindness or not. Some don't appreciate it and demand more and more."

Frank Kelley, 1023 Beech Ave., welder for National Supply:
"I think perhaps they are, to a certain extent, but this younger generation has come to expect and take for granted the things they see in their own families. If you have a wife and family, I think the work and responsibilities should be a 50-50 proposition and I don't think a wife should be considered pampered and spoiled if the husband helps."

Mrs. Toni Mann, 1864 West 262nd Street, Lomita, housewife:
"Yes, I think we are with all the electrical appliances and new things coming out to make our work easier. We modern women can't begin to put out the work that the women of a generation or two ago did but that is progress, I think."

Decision on Findings Due Wednesday

Attorney Joseph Taback claimed that formal charges against Torrance fireman Richard De Armitt for alleged illegal participation in this city's recent municipal election were brought about against a background of "prejudice and discrimination" during a 3½ hour hearing before the Civil Service Commission Friday night.

Taback said that De Armitt had shown no intent to violate an "ambiguous and indefinite" civil service code which prohibits rendering political service for councilmanic candidates.

Whether or not DeArmitt, who is president of the firefighters union here, will lose his job will be decided Wednesday, the Civil Service Commission announced following the hearing before a capacity audience in the City Council chambers.

THE HUSKY, ex-footballing fireman was charged with the alleged violations of the city statutes and state government code last month by Fire Chief J. J. Benner and City Manager George W. Stevens. DeArmitt admitted putting about 10 or 12 campaign stickers for three candidates on the hood and sides of his 1954 model Chevrolet pickup truck, but maintained the practice was common among other firemen and city employees.

CHIEF BENNER admitted that during the course of his 33 years with the fire department he had seen numerous other fire department cars carrying campaign stickers, but that DeArmitt's "was more obvious." DeArmitt said there was some enmity between him and the chief, and said he didn't know that carrying campaign stickers was illegal. When DeArmitt was first charged with the violations four weeks ago, he said that he was "shocked, because I don't feel I've violated any rules or regulations, either of the city or of the state."

THE CHARGE also accuses him of circulating a letter asking for the support of the three candidates, Nickolas Drale, Pat Hogue, and David Figueredo. Only Drale was elected in the April 12 balloting. The letter was signed by Loradelle J. DeArmitt, the fireman's wife. DeArmitt was fired from the fire department by Chief Benner, with Stevens concurring last month, but the discharge was suspended until the civil service hearing.

BENNER, Battalion Chief Robert Lucas, and Det. Sgt. Don Hamilton testified that they had all seen DeArmitt's truck parked on the south side of Carson St. on Crenshaw Blvd. with the campaign stickers posted on it prior to and two weeks after the municipal election.

Det. Sgt. Hamilton caused the investigation to be made on DeArmitt's truck by order of Police Chief Percy Bennett.

CHIEF BENNER, Chief Lucas, and Det. Sgt. Hamilton were all called to the stand by City Prosecutor C. H. Caterlin, who cited a 1940 opinion by the then State Attorney General Earl Warren that use of campaign stickers by Civil Service Employees is improper, in attempting to prove that De-

Armitt "actively and knowingly permitted the campaign stickers on his truck..." Taback, in attempting to prove that unjust action was taken against his client, asked Chief Benner "Why did you wait until after the election to prefer charges?"

AFTER AN overruled objection from Caterlin, the chief replied "Because it was obvious (the illegal campaigning)." Chief Benner said that he had never before brought charges of this type to any fireman, although he did see campaign stickers on their cars.

DeArmitt said he picked up some of his stickers in the fire station and that others were brought to his house for his wife.

Another fireman, engineer Jerry Hollomon, admitted having eight campaign stickers on his car.

The Trial Board's decision will be handed down after possible further discussion at its meeting Wednesday in the City Council chambers.

Steel Firm Furnaces Out For 2 Weeks

The open hearth department of the U.S. Steel Corp. plant here will be closed for two weeks beginning today, the firm has announced.

The two-week shutdown calls for 125 men of the 680 employees in the plant to be laid off until the furnaces are reopened June 5.

A lack of orders for the local plant's products was cited by a company spokesman as causing the shutdown.



PARADE HIGHLIGHT . . . United States Marine Corps Recruiters color guard is pictured up front in the military units of the Armed Forces Day parade held Saturday in Torrance. Besides Marine Corps the Army and Navy were well represented along with high school bands led by majorettes. A large crowd lined the curbs the full length of the hour-long spectacle. (Herald Photo)

'No Comment' on Summit

Armed Strength Needed For Peace, Milton Says

By REID BUNDY
Herald Managing Editor

"The more we visualize the catastrophic consequences of a general atomic war the more we are impressed with the fact that such a war must be avoided if humanly possible." Under Secretary of the Army, Hugh M. Milton II, said here yesterday afternoon.

Speaking to a post-parade luncheon meeting of city officials, civic and military leaders of the area, Secretary Milton emphasized that the parade of military power which was displayed here earlier "is the primary source of our 'Power for Peace.'"

THE HIGH-RANKING Army official earlier had told newsmen that he was impressed with what he saw in Torrance, that he was aware of the city-to-city program with Konya, Turkey, and with the city's burgeoning population, industrial, and commercial growth. But, he had nothing to report on the ill-fated summit conference which collapsed earlier this week in Paris.

"IT WOULD BE totally inappropriate for me to make any comment on the summit," he said in answer to a newsman's question.

The Army's No. 2 man had high praise for the nation's reserve program, the U.S. Army Reserves and the National Guard.

"The reserve system is better now than it has ever been," he said while talking to newsmen at poolside at the Driftwood in Waverly where he spent Friday and Saturday nights. It is far better now than it was in 1941, he emphasized.

AN EDUCATOR in civilian life, Milton is now running the nation's biggest school, he reported.

The Army issued 44,000 high school certificates last year and now has 27,000 going to college.

"I've never heard of another school with that kind of enrollment," he quipped.

ON THE OTHER hand, servicemen confined to disciplinary barracks have decreased from 6600 in 1956 to 821 at the present time.

Before the Lompoc Disciplinary Barracks was closed down last year, the Army issued a large number of grammar school diplomas, high school diplomas, and several associate in arts degrees to inmates

who had been studying during their confinement.

SECRETARY WILSON refused to be drawn into an inter-service rivalry, emphasizing to newsmen and again at the luncheon that a tri-dimensional deterrent strength made up of Army, Air Force, and Navy units had a three-fold mission: to fulfill a distinct role in peace, of providing deterrent strength, and of fighting in war if that is necessary.

Detering global atomic war is necessary but so is it necessary to be able to suppress quickly any limited aggression or small war which may threaten any part of the Free World, he said.

"FROM THE Communist viewpoint, small wars are merely installments within a long-range plan of conquest," he said, emphasizing the need to halt the small wars which could lead to attrition of the World's strength.

Secretary Milton is scheduled to return to Washington, D.C., today, and be at his desk in the morning, he said. His return was scheduled today, and the events in Paris during the past week didn't change a thing, he added.

Lomita Pair Win Ruling On Protests

Torrance's bid to annex a 12-acre section of Lomita through the uninhabited territories route was rejected in a ruling of the Superior Court Friday.

Superior Judge Eugene P. Fay of the Inglewood court, ruled that the city erred in that protests of property owners was enough to halt the move.

Judge Fay's ruling came on an appeal by Eugene and Katherine Capel, owners of property in the area to be annexed, who claimed their protest was illegally ignored by the city during consideration of the matter.

Asst. City Atty. Robert Dover had told the council that the Capel protest need not be considered because they were not the owners of record at the time of the last assessment (March, 1959).

The Capels, however, contended that they were the legal owners of the property at the time of the annexation attempt, and as such had a right to have their protest considered.

Addition of the Capel protest to those of other property owners would mean the city received protests from owners of more than half the property according to valuation figures given to the city council at the time of the public hearing.

Unless the city appeals, the annexation of the northwest corner of Lomita at the intersection of Lomita Blvd. and Crenshaw, is dead.

The city would be prohibited by law from renewing any annexation proceedings there for one year after the date of the last bid, the Herald was told. The matter will probably go back to the city council for a

decision on appealing the court ruling.

Still pending is litigation on the attempts of the city to annex a strip of Crenshaw Blvd. north of Redondo Beach Blvd. Gardena has also filed annexation proceedings here and Torrance has been given an Attorney General's ruling that "a point of law is at issue," and that it can open litigation on Gardena's action.

Torrance claims a priority in the matter.

Juvenile Hall for Area Set

A three-man architectural board has been commissioned to begin drawing plans for a \$4 million Juvenile Hall to be constructed on the Harbor General Hospital site beginning in 1962.

The 400-bed detention home will occupy a 20-acre site at the Torrance location, and will be built from funds authorized in a \$14½ million bond issue approved at the polls in 1956.

Construction is being delayed until 1962 because of the scheduled multi-million dollar building program at the hospital.

Architects named to begin designs for the juvenile facility were Albert Chris, Herman Light, and Maurice Fleishman.

Bids for the construction of the new 600-bed acute wing and the two-story outpatient unit of the hospital will be opened June 15. It will take about two years to construct, county officials estimate.

Capt. Guild To Address Area Women

Capt. Eugene Guild of Glenwood Springs, Colo., organizer of the group called "Fighting Homefolks for Fighting Men," will speak to members of the Women for Good Government at their May meeting next Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the San Pedro Assistance League Building, 1441 W. 8th St., San Pedro.

Captain Guild, who lost a son during the Korean War, refused to accept a Navy Cross from President Truman for his son's actions during the war.

He organized the "Fighting Homefolks" to gather parents and relatives of men serving in the armed forces who are still held in Communist prisons, "abandoned by all save those whose task is dedicated to obtaining their release."

Captain Guild's talk Wednesday will share billing with the annual election of the Women for Good Government. A nominating committee, headed by Mrs. Robert Rosevear of Palos Verdes Estates, will submit a slate of nominees at the meeting.